



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Department Releases Update of Flood-Related Injuries and Illnesses

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today released updated information about injuries and illnesses reported around the state as a result of flood conditions and flood-related activities, according to Kirby Kruger, state epidemiologist with the North Dakota Department of Health

Between April 2, 2009, and April 9, 2009, 18 flood-related injuries were reported to the Department of Health from emergency rooms across the state. That brings the total to 223 since surveillance began March 23, 2009. In addition, the number of flood-related illnesses reported to the department in the same time period was four, bringing the total to 62. The total number of flood related deaths remains at two.

Flood-related injuries and illnesses reported to the department this past week included injuries to backs, shoulders, hands and wrists; head injuries; a broken finger; and motor vehicle accidents.

The Department of Health began conducting surveillance of emergency rooms across the state on March 23, 2009, to assess the extent of injuries and illnesses related to flooding. All emergency rooms report the number of injuries or illnesses seen due to flood-related events. It should be noted that this surveillance captures only those that seek medical care at emergency rooms, so the numbers do not reflect every single injury or illness occurring in the state related to floods.

For more information, please contact Kirby Kruger, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378.

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